

# A word from Wildwood

The goal of Friends of Wildwood is to preserve and support Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

## Run Wild for Wildwood 5K & 10K

Saturday, August 27  
8:30 am–11:00am

\$25 for 5K, \$30 for 10K

Save the Date! Choose to complete the 3.1 mile loop via running or walking once [5K] or twice [10K]. This scenic run/walk will take you on the Wildwood Way Trail around the Lake and down the Towpath Trail along the PA Canal.



To register scan the QR code with your smart phone.

## Penn State Extension Master Gardener Workshops

Master Gardener virtual and in-person webinars have become a staple at Wildwood Park. Covering a wide range of topics, the Master Gardeners are ready to educate on native plants, gardening and vegetables. Their reach is both far and wide with folks tuning in from the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia. This year to date over 1,363 participants have registered! Such an amazing number of people aware of Wildwood Park and digging deeper into learning as adults!

A special thank you to Catherine Scott, PSE Extension Horticulture Educator/  
Master Gardener Coordinator for putting these together and choosing Wildwood.



## Harmful Insect Monitoring

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) was intermittently on site in April treating Spotted Lanternfly egg masses. Park Staff were grateful for their efforts. In addition, the PA Department of Agriculture will monitor 10 insect traps (white jug traps and blue jug traps) located in trees surveying for pests, especially dangerous invasive hornets from March – October.



On a cool, sunny Saturday in April, four-legged fur friends and their humans attended the first annual Friends of Wildwood sponsored event, Wild About Dogs. Throughout the day, attendees interacted with vendors, exhibitors, and engaged in dog-centric activities. Pups were able to put their sniffers to the test in a Bark2Beak sniffing obstacle course and reaped the rewards in the form of treats. Their human counterparts observed demonstrations by Summit Search & Rescue and Keystone K-9, were able to learn about pet therapy programs offered by Caring Hearts, and had the opportunity to purchase both human and dog Friends of Wildwood memberships.

In addition to being able to engage with the 2022 Art In The Wild installations, Wild About Dog participants were provided a special photo opportunity: a photo panel painted by AITW participant Eve Gurabcki. Poking their heads through the panel, pups were able to take on the personality of ubiquitous park fauna, frogs and herons.

Intended to honor our furry friends while celebrating the wonders of Wildwood Park, the first annual Wild About Dogs event was a grand success. Committee members are beginning to plan the second in May of 2023 with great hopes of seeing you and your fur friends there too!



## School Groups

This spring Wildwood welcomed, 12 different schools ranging from public to private entities in addition to numerous self-guided groups. The students and staff were equally as excited to be attending or hosting field trips once more. From Discovery Walks to Birds to Macroinvertebrate Exploration, fun was had by all! This year marks our first spring balancing increased public programming with guided school groups. It was a busy time but we wouldn't have changed a thing. A special

thank you goes out to each and every participant!



*Photo:  
Larry Imes*

## A word from Wildwood

is published quarterly by  
Friends of Wildwood  
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### Board Officers

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**DAUPHIN COUNTY**  
PENNSYLVANIA  
PARKS & RECREATION

Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center are part of the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department. The Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is closed Mondays and holidays. Wildwood Park's trails are open from dawn until dusk. Programs can be viewed at [www.explorewildwoodpark.org/events](http://explorewildwoodpark.org/events) and questions directed to [wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov).

### County Commissioners

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Chris Rebert, Park Manager  
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Theresa Alberici, Part-time Environmental Educator  
Teresa Conforti, Part-time Environmental Educator  
Savanna Lenker, Part-time Environmental Educator  
Jessica Picone, Part-time Environmental Educator  
Barbara Shunk, Part-time Environmental Educator  
Jacob Maddigan, Intern

## A Word from the President

2022 has been a year of firsts for the Friends of Wildwood. By the time you are reading this, the first-ever Friends' sponsored bus trip will have embarked on a journey to some nature-related points of interest in Perry and Juniata Counties. The timing of the trip allowed for great opportunities to see both various birds and many flowers in full bloom at each of the stops.

Another first this year was the first-ever Wild About Dogs mini-festival. Many local dogs brought their owners for a visit to Wildwood and a sneak preview of Art In The Wild on April 2nd. The dogs were able to meet up with their friends, visit with vendors while enjoying treats, have their picture taken with a Wildwood

scene and purchase dog memberships to support the Park. By the amount of tail-wagging I saw, it seems like a good time was had by all.



With summer right around the corner, you may have done some recent spring cleaning and may have come across some books you are no longer using. The Friends of Wildwood would be glad to accept any gently used nature-themed adult and kids' books. We have an ongoing Used Book Sale downstairs at the Nature Center *More information on page 7*.

And when you stop by the Nature Center to enjoy some air-conditioning after a walk on the park's trails or are checking out the Art In the Wild Exhibit (remember to vote for your favorite at: [www.explorewildwoodpark.org](http://www.explorewildwoodpark.org)) *More on page 3*, be sure to check out the merchandise in the Nature Shop. From new books and items for the kids, works from local artisans are also featured and available for purchase. Remember, members receive 10% off Nature Shop purchases. Proceeds from the Used Book Sale and the Nature Shop benefit the Park and the work of the Friends.

As you spend time at Wildwood in the coming months, be sure to let the Park Maintenance staff and Park Volunteers you see know that you appreciate their efforts in making the park enjoyable for all visitors, local and beyond.

Heather

# Park Highlights

## Art in the Wild

### 2022 Theme: Sunlight and Shadows

The opening of Art In The Wild 2022 on April 3rd brought 17 new outdoor environmental art installations to the trails of Wildwood. There is color, movement, strength and subtlety displayed along with artist interpretations of this year's theme, Sunlight and Shadows. 2022 marks the tenth anniversary of Art In The Wild which has seen 140 artworks installed since its inception in 2013.

Art In The Wild is an annual program that invites artists of all ages and abilities to submit proposals for outdoor art installations. Proposals are juried in February and this year's selected pieces were installed throughout March. Of the 17 installations, five artists are new to the program and 12 are repeat participants. Of note is the fact that one artist has participated all ten years! The annual Meet the Artists event was held on opening day and a private reception for all the artists was held May 20 where sites were critiqued by Guest Critiquer, Ted Ormai. The results are below.



1<sup>st</sup> Place



2<sup>nd</sup> Place



3<sup>rd</sup> "Escaping the Darkness" Carrie Breschi Site #8

2<sup>nd</sup> "Sleeping Giants" David Reeve Site #11

3<sup>rd</sup> "Emergence" Richard & Maria Joel Site #3

Honorable Mention was given to "Shadows in Daylight" by Raymond Curanzo III Site #6 and "Shadow Moons" by Carol Reed Site #12.

Throughout the show, Wildwood visitors can vote for their favorite piece, the winners of which will be honored and announced at Celebrate Wildwood on September 24. People's Choice voting can occur by scanning a QR code, voting in person inside the Nature Center or along the trails at each site. A brochure is available at Wildwood showing the locations of each installation along with brief information about the artists.

Further artist information and a video for individuals not able to walk the three-mile loop are available in the Nature Center. Please come out to see this year's show and support the artists along with all the great programming at Wildwood.



The installations will be on display through September 30. Art In The Wild was also highlighted on theBurg's Podcast you can listen to it here <https://bit.ly/3xqCkvU>.

### Maintenance Crew Thank You Luncheon

April 1st may have been April's Fools Day, but there was no joking about the outstanding work performed by Dauphin County Parks & Recreation Maintenance Crew. The Friends of Wildwood sponsored a thank you luncheon for the Crew in appreciation of the day-in and day-out care they provide for all of Wildwood's 229 acres including, but certainly not limited to, the care and upkeep of trees, roads, signage, paving, pruning and the overall facility. Their accomplishments go on and on...and on.

On the 1st, the Crew and several of the Friends' Board and Wildwood Staff enjoyed a barbecue feast at the Nature Center at which time stories of the Crew's Wildwood 'experiences' were shared, and a proclamation of thanks was read by the Friends' President Heather Dock. This official expression of thanks was but a single gesture for the endless amount of work these guys provide to keep Wildwood always looking great. Every Park user should be grateful for their efforts. The next time you see any of the Crew, please take a moment to extend an in-person thanks for their hard work, dedication and characteristic good humor. They all deserve it!



Luke Tharp, Shawn Legge, Russ Corkle,  
Scott Spidle & Greg Motter

## Welcome Teresa

Wildwood welcomed a new Part-time Environmental Educator, Teresa Conforti, to the staff this spring. Teresa has a B.S. in Environmental Science from Messiah University. In her time at Messiah, she had the opportunity to study tropical biology in Malaysia and desert ecosystems in the Southwest United States. One of her favorite memories is hiking the Grand Canyon rim to rim. She has worked at the Oakes Museum of Natural History and currently volunteers with the ALLARM Stream Team of Dickinson College to collect water data from Susquehanna River tributaries to monitor stream health locally. Her hobbies include kayaking, gardening and hiking with her family. She is excited to join the Wildwood Park team and learn more about wetland habitats.



## Chesapeake Bay Foundation Tree Planting

In a collaborative effort with the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 82 trees and shrubs were planted around the Olewine Nature Center and along the Wildwood Way Trail. These woody species will help to improve the quality of Wildwood Park and the Chesapeake Bay long-term.

Species planted this year include: Black Chokeberry, Pin Oak, Swamp White Oak, Persimmon and Silky Dogwood. A very special thank you goes out to our 4 volunteers who helped with this event: Margaret Doucette, Joe Gatz, James Harbert and Christine Smith. For more information on the Keystone 10 Million trees initiative, visit [tenmilliontrees.org](http://tenmilliontrees.org).



Save the date! More information will be posted on our website later this summer. Invite your friends and family. We hope to see you all there!

## Save The Boardwalk Update

To date, we have received generous contributions and secured grants for the much needed boardwalk repairs. Presently, the plan is for late summer/early fall 2022 construction. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we work through the various hoops and hurdles required for construction within a wetland. If you haven't yet become a project donor, it's not too late to make a donation - every bit helps! More info is available on our website; checks can be mailed to Friends of Wildwood, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, PA 17110

## 2022 Photo Contest

This year the Friends of Wildwood Photo Contest is expanding its reach to ALL Dauphin County Parks which include: Wildwood Park, Fort Hunter Park, Fort Hunter Conservancy, Detweiler Park, Wiconisco Creek Park and Lykens Glen Park. The goal is still to find original, amateur photographs taken at one of these locations which reflect the natural habitats, including flora and fauna, and convey conservation values of the Park's System. For more information visit our website.



## Species Spotlight: Nesting Snapping Turtles

The beginning of June is a great time to see momma snapping turtles up close. Early overcast mornings around the Nature Center flower beds, along the Towpath and Wildwood Way trails, you may see these behemoths rising from the creek beds to lay their eggs. As you can imagine this is a slow, arduous process as the female digs a bowl-shaped hole solely with her back legs to deposit 20-50 ping pong ball sized eggs within. A large percentage of these eggs will be preyed upon by various predators including: skunks, raccoons, chipmunks and crows for an easy snack. The fortunate few emerge 9-16 weeks later.



Hatchlings will head immediately towards the nearest water source.

Snapping turtles are the largest turtles in Wildwood and can live 45-50 years.

Photos:  
Larry Innes



# Upcoming Events

## Online Registration!

Program registration is online at [www.explorewildwoodpark.org/events/](http://www.explorewildwoodpark.org/events/)  
It's easy! Click on the "Events" page, scroll through the list of programs, click to register.

### Kids Discover: Herps (Ages 5-10)

Thursday, June 9

1:00 pm–3:00

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

Frogs, turtles and snakes have many adaptations unique to animals who spend their lives near wetlands. Come to see these animals up close and learn about what makes each one special. Register online.

### Walk & Talk with a Master Gardener

Friday, June 10 at Fort Hunter Park

Friday, July 8 at Wildwood Park

9:30 am–10:30 am

Free

### Volunteer Work Days

Saturdays, June 11, July 9 & August 13

10:00 am–1:00 pm

Free

Help us keep the Park clean. Register online.

### Flower Walks

Sunday, June 19 Meet at the Nort Lot

Sunday, July 17 Meet at the Nature Center

Sunday, August 14 Meet at the Nature Center

10:30 am–12:00 pm

Free

### Wildwood Park Coloring Contest

Thursday, July 1 – Saturday July 31

10:00 am–4:00 pm

Free

Children ages 5-10 years may submit a Wildwood-themed 8 1/2 x 11 hand drawn, portrait-style coloring page using colored pencils, crayons or markers. Entries will be submitted to the Nature Center in person, via mail or email during the month of July. Vote for your favorite in early August. More information available online.

### Kids Discover: Outdoor Play (Ages 6-8)

Wednesday, July 13

5:30 pm–7:00 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

Exchange screen-time for play time this evening. Join a Naturalist at Fort Hunter Park to discover a variety of creative outdoor games anyone can play at home. Think creatively, move around and most of all have fun! Register online.

### Detweiler Park Discovery Walk

Thursday, July 14

9:00 am–11:00 am

\$2 per participant

Join a Naturalist for a hike at Detweiler Park. Our hike will include a look at insects, plants and trees—whatever interesting things we can find! Register online

### Painting at the Park [rescheduled]

Saturday, July 16

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

\$25 per participant



Please join the Friends of Wildwood for our fifth annual Painting at the Park, directed by Jenn Brown from Jenn's Craft Parties. Jenn will lead participants through the creation of a piece highlighting a natural element that is near and dear to our hearts...the lotus flower! Proceeds benefit the Friends of Wildwood. Pre-registration is required by July 12, 2022. Register online.

### Pound the Colors of Wildwood into Cloth

Saturday, July 30

9:00 am–10:30 am or 11:00 am–12:30 pm

\$20 per participant



Design a unique cotton bandana using flowers and leaves from Wildwood Park. Natural dyer Carol Reed will lead participants on a short walk to forage plant material at the Park before returning to the Olewine Pavilion where participants can choose from additional flowers and herbs from her garden. Create a design with your gathered materials and use a hammer to pound color, petals and leaf shape and veins into the cloth. Register online.

### Wild Recipes: Summer Foraging in Your Backyard

Tuesday, August 2

6:00 pm–7:30 pm

\$15 per participant

Naturalists at Wildwood Park to learn how to make Staghorn Sumac Lemonade, Mulberry Syrup and to learn about what plants and petals to include in your very own wild foraged mixed greens salad. Samples of each edible treat will be provided. Register online.

### Greenbelt Connector Walk

Thursday, August 4

8:30 am–10:30am

Free

Join a Naturalist to walk the Greenbelt Connector from Fort Hunter to Wildwood Park. Plan to park along the river at Fort Hunter and meet at Heckton Church. Register online.

### Preschool Storytime: Summer at Wildwood!

Wednesday, August 10

10:00 am–10:45 am

Free

### Leave No Trace (Ages 8-10)

Tuesday, August 16

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

\$10 per child, chaperones are free

Join Julie Queen, Leave No Trace Master Educator, at Detweiler Park for a fun, interactive session to learn about the seven principles of Leave No Trace and how to apply them during your time spent outdoors! Register online.

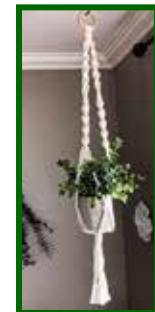
### Macrame Workshop

Thursday, August 25 or Thursday, September 29

6:00 pm–8:30 pm

\$45 per participant

Join Lindsey Sansoni artist and owner of Why Knot, Handmade Macrame, for an evening workshop at Wildwood Park. Create a unique macrame plant hanger to brighten up your home. The workshop is open to those 8 years and older. In just 5 easy knots, participants will learn the basics to all macrame creations. During the two separate dates, instruction for two different plant hangers will be offered. Timeslots are limited to 20 participants. Register online. Learn more about Lindsey by visiting her website here [www.whyknotpa.com](http://www.whyknotpa.com)



### Kids Discover: Monarchs (Ages 5-10)

Tuesday, August 30

1:00 pm–2:30 pm

\$5 per child, chaperones are free

Monarch butterflies are some of the most widely studied insects in the entire world. Join a Naturalist for a chance to see these amazing insects up close and personal in three of their prominent life stages. Program will occur outside on the West Lawn by the small pavilion closest to the Nature Center. Participants will visit nearby milkweed plants in search of these amazing insects. Register online.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Olivia Susskind

Olivia has been volunteering at Wildwood for twelve plus years. She remembers fondly walking the trails with her late husband Jack and their grandkids. Jack was a long-time volunteer work day participant. A resident of Harrisburg since college, Olivia knew about the Park long before the Nature Center existed. Eventually Olivia, decided to join the Friends of Wildwood Board where she quickly segued onto the Photo Contest Committee and the Art In The Wild Committee.

She stepped in to Chair the Photo Contest Committee when leadership was changing and there was an opening. Over the years she has loved getting to know the guest judges. She feels the Photo Contest truly draws people to Wildwood and puts them in touch with nature. She is very excited to see how the contest will change this year as it will now include all Dauphin County Parks. *More on page 4.*

Olivia served on the board when the idea for Art In The Wild was first being tossed around. She graciously joined the committee as a board liaison. On reflecting over the past ten years of Art In The Wild installations, she believes that the exhibition truly became all that the original committee hoped it would be. Art In The Wild continues to draw numerous individuals each year with guest critiquers that are always impressed with the showing. This marks the first year Olivia has not served on the Art In The Wild Committee. She does, however, continue to sponsor and support the program. Her granddaughter Maddie, now a 22-year-old PA College of Art and Design (PCAD) student in Lancaster, emailed to request a walk with grandma to visit the 2022 installations, which will be up for viewing until September 30. *More on page 3.* This same granddaughter and her younger sister Lucy adopted turtles at Wildwood

and always enjoyed tossing sticks over Paxton Creek Bridge, watching them float under to the other side.

In closing she shared how she feels Wildwood is a treasure and if you have any interest in the natural world at all, it just opens up a host of opportunities, especially to watch the seasons change. She also shared that she believes that Wildwood has phenomenal staff that you get to work with too.



## Litter Clean-Up

April 9th Volunteer Work Day was dedicated entirely to litter clean-up along Industrial Road. Commissioner Chad Saylor as well as partners from Capital Area Greenbelt Association, Harrisburg Bicycle Club, Friends of Wildwood and Wildwood volunteers collaborated to collect over 100 bags of litter, weighing approximately 1,500 lbs. The bags were collected by The City of Harrisburg. The removal of this litter keeps the PA Canal and Wildwood Lake clean. Every effort we can make to pick up litter is well worth our effort.



## Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Fort Hunter Park

On Tuesday, June 28 from 6:00pm–8:00pm Fort Hunter Park will host a combined volunteer appreciation dinner catered by Dodge City for volunteers from Wildwood and Fort Hunter outside on the lawn by the Centennial Barn. Enjoy conversation and evening musical entertainment from cover band duo Blessings & Fowler. A rain date is scheduled for later that week on Thursday, June 30.

## Sierra Club of Pennsylvania Highlights Wildwood Park

This past spring, Karl Streckewald, a representative of the Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, stopped by the Olewine Nature Center to look around. During his visit he gathered details about the Park and wrote a very nice blog post for their chapter. In the article he noted the diversity of flora and fauna present within the Park. He stated, "It should be noted that even in the Park surrounded by trees and wildlife, you will sometimes still hear traffic and other outside noises over the bird calls. To some extent, that is a reminder of just how special this park is in that there is so much beauty in an industrial area in Harrisburg's backyard and is so easily accessible by all of Central Pennsylvania." You can read the full article here [bit.ly/3OGHSIX](http://bit.ly/3OGHSIX)



**Nature Camp at Wiconisco Park (Ages 6-8)**

**Tuesday, June 21 & Wednesday, June 22**  
9:00 am—2:00 pm  
Cost is \$25 per child, per day

**ENVIRONMENTAL PIONEERS**

**Environmental Pioneers at Wildwood Park (Ages 15-17)**

**Thursday July 7 & Friday, July 8**  
9:00 am—3:00 pm  
Cost is \$35 per teen, per day

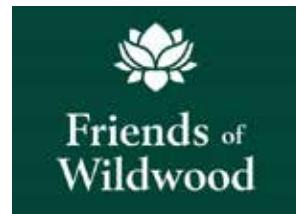
## Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?

Here are 7 ways to give to Wildwood.

All are tax deductible.

Details at [www.explorewildwoodpark.org/support/](http://www.explorewildwoodpark.org/support/)

1. **Become a Member** or give the gift of membership
2. Make a donation
3. Make a bequest
4. Purchase a Memorial Brick
5. Contribute to Wildwood's Endowment
6. Sponsor a Program
7. Volunteer your Time



## Membership Benefits

Your membership supports the ongoing environmental education programs and conservation efforts of Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

Your Membership provides the following:

- Reciprocal membership with more than 100 nature centers throughout the country that participate in the Association of Nature Center Administrators
- Subscription to *A Word From Wildwood* quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount off all Nature Shop purchases
- Knowing you:
  - Support Environmental Education programs reaching 10,000 people annually
  - Have a direct impact on local and migratory wildlife, wild plants and the diverse people living in our community
  - Preserve Wildwood Park, now and for future generations

## Sign up to receive the newsletter electronically

### *A Word from Wildwood*

can be sent electronically to Friends of Wildwood members. Email [wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov](mailto:wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov)



**Help save paper and money! GO GREEN!**

## Have you considered Wildwood Park in your estate planning?

The Friends of Wildwood is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization listed with the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations, and incorporated within the Commonwealth of PA. It is an advocate for Wildwood Park through preservation, education and financial support.

**Friends of Wildwood**  
**100 Wildwood Way**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17110**  
**(717) 221-0292**  
**explorewildwoodpark.org**

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## Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

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Sat. July 16  
10:00am—12:00pm

Pound the Colors  
of Wildwood into  
Cloth  
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**Run Wild for**  
**Wildwood**  
Sat. August 27  
8:30am—11:00am



30% Recycled post-consumer fiber